

PATENT APPLICATION

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WET/DRY GIFT ARRANGEMENTS AND METHOD FOR MAKING

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to gifts and playthings and, more specifically, to a Wet/Dry Gift Arrangements and Method for Making.

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2. Description of Related Art

Flower arrangements are very popular gifts. As is well-known, typical flower arrangements are either made predominantly from live flowers and plants, or they are made predominantly from dried or silk flowers and plants. In some cases, the dried or silk flower
10 arrangements include other gifts (e.g. candy) that are placed in the arrangement holder. Never before have live flowers and plants been combined with dry gift items.

There has been an attempt at modifying the conventional live floral arrangement; this device is depicted in Figures 1A and 1B. Figures 1A and 1B are perspective and cutaway side views, respectively, of a prior art vase assembly designed by
15 Bock, U.S. Patent No. 5,353,546. The Bock device is a "Combination Vase and Air Fragrance Dispenser" 10. The combination 10 consists of an inner vessel 14 having a flanged collar 24 that is designed for placement into the top opening 18 of an outer vessel 12. The inner vessel

14 is water-tight, and defines an inner vessel chamber 22 for retaining living plants and the like therein.

The outer vessel 12 has a top opening 18 that is sized to catch the flanged collar 24 of the inner vessel 14 when the inner vessel 14 is placed therein. The walls of the outer vessel 12 form an outer vessel chamber 16. The outer vessel chamber 16 is designed to have a solid or liquid room deodorizer placed therein; the walls of the outer vessel 12 have vent holes 20 formed therethrough to permit the fragrance created within the outer chamber vessel 16 to emanate out into the room.

Another attempt at improving upon the conventional floral arrangement is shown in Figure 2. Figure 2 is a perspective view of another prior art vase assembly, namely that shown in Sanderlin, et al., U.S. Patent No. D450,262. The Sanderlin vase 26 assembly comprises a clear vase 38, over which a clear cover 30 is placed. The vase 38 is designed to hold wet objects, such as the fish 32 shown. Also, there is apparently a small cup 33 for holding the stems of a plurality of living plants 34. It should be understood that the previous functional description is not claimed by the Sanderlin vase 26, since that patent is a design patent; the inventor of the present invention provides that discussion simply to clarify the distinctions between her assembly and those in the prior art.

Neither Bock, nor Sanderlin permit a person to give a gift that has the pleasingly decorative features of living plants as well as the functional benefits of non-wet gifts in a single assembly. An assembly that provided these benefits would be very desirable.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In light of the aforementioned problems associated with the prior devices and methods, it is an object of the present invention to provide a Wet/Dry Gift Arrangement and Method for Making. The assembly and combination should provide an aesthetically pleasing
5 floral arrangement that serves as a superior gift as well. The assembly should include a lower dry gift container for placing and displaying candy, lotions and/or other miscellaneous gifts in a dry environment. Furthermore, the assembly should include an upper wet assembly that has live plants and/or flowers and the like. When the wet assembly and dry assembly are combined, the resulting article should appear to be a conventional floral arrangement, while at
10 the same time having a receptacle to display other desirable gifts.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The objects and features of the present invention, which are believed to be novel, are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The present invention, both as to its organization and manner of operation, together with further objects and advantages, may best be understood by reference to the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, of which:

Figures 1A and 1B are perspective and cutaway side views, respectively, of a prior art vase assembly;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of another prior art vase assembly;

Figure 3 is an exemplary embodiment of a plant/dry gift assembly of the present invention;

Figure 4 is an exploded perspective view of the wet assembly of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is an exploded perspective view of the dry assembly of Figure 3;

Figure 6 is an exploded perspective view of the plant/dry gift assembly of Figures 3 – 5; and

Figure 7 is a flow chart depicting the method for assembling the plant/dry gift assembly of Figures 3 – 6.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The following description is provided to enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the invention and sets forth the best modes contemplated by the inventor of carrying out her invention. Various modifications, however, will remain readily apparent to those skilled in the art, since the generic principles of the present invention have been defined herein specifically to provide a Wet/Dry Gift Arrangements and Method for Making.

The present invention can best be understood by initial consideration of Figure 3. Figure 3 is an exemplary embodiment of a plant/dry gift assembly 40 of the present invention. As shown, the gift assembly 40 comprises a beautiful arrangement of live plants and flowers 42 on top, with dry contents 44 also being a component of the gift assembly 40. If we turn to Figure 4, we can examine the invention in additional detail.

Figure 4 is an exploded perspective view of the wet assembly 46 of Figure 3. The wet assembly 46 comprises a wet vessel 50, which is a water-proof container, typically made from clear plastic, that defines a rim 54 and a wet chamber therein 52. The wet assembly 46 further comprises an oasis block 48 that is cut to fit within the wet chamber 52. The oasis block 48 is also known as “floral foam”; it is a foam-type material that is used widely in the floral industry for keeping floral arrangements fresh for prolonged periods after the flowers are cut. The oasis block 48 is typically cut to size to fit within the wet chamber 52, and then it is soaked in water or other nutrient fluid for plants until it is fully saturated.

Next, the block 48 is placed into the wet chamber 52 and an arrangement of flowers and plants 42 is created by inserting the plant stems into the saturated oasis block 48. If we now turn to Figure 5, we can examine the present invention in additional detail.

Figure 5 is an exploded perspective view of the dry assembly 56 of Figure 3.

5 The dry assembly 56 comprises a dry vessel 58, which is typically a clear glass or plastic vase or bowl defined by a throat 66 terminating in the top opening 64. To complete the dry assembly 56, one need simply place some sort of dry gift item, such as the candy 62 shown here, into the dry chamber 60 formed within the dry vessel 58. The user must be careful to leave adequate space at the top of the dry vessel 58 to receive the wet assembly therein as
10 depicted below in Figure 6.

Figure 6 is an exploded perspective view of the plant/dry gift assembly 40 of Figures 3 – 5. Once the wet and dry assemblies 46 and 56, respectively, are assembled, the wet assembly 46 is placed into the throat 66 of the dry vessel 58. At times, the user may choose to use clear adhesive tape to attach the wet vessel 50 to the dry vessel 58 in order to
15 prevent spillage of the liquid from the wet vessel 50 into the dry vessel 58. As shown above in Figure 3, the completed assembly 40 appears to be a floral arrangement that also has a candy gift surprise. Figure 7 depicts the method for creating the typical plant/dry gift assembly of the present invention.

Figure 7 is a flow chart 100 depicting the method for assembling the plant/dry
20 gift assembly of Figures 3 – 6. The method 100 comprises a process for creating the dry assembly 56 and a process for creating the wet assembly 46. The dry assembly is created by first selecting the desired dry vessel 102, and then substantially filling it with dry gift contents

104. Before, after or simultaneously, the wet assembly 46 is created by selecting live plants
106 and a wet vessel 110. The wet vessel 110 must be cooperatively designed such that it
will not pass through the throat (see Figure 5) of the dry vessel (see Figure 5), and further will
be sufficiently disguised from view so that the assembly 40 appears to be simply a floral
5 arrangement in a vase.

The plants and oasis block are placed in the wet vessel 108 (the plants can be
placed into the block either before or after placement of the block in the wet chamber 112).
Liquid may be added after placement of the block in the wet chamber 114, in addition to the
method discussed earlier wherein the block is wetted prior to its placement into the wet
10 chamber.

Once the wet assembly 46 is completely assembled, it is placed into the throat
of the dry assembly 116, therein completing the assembly 40 (with the exception of the
optional addition of adhesive tape).

Other non-depicted examples of the present invention include: (1) a small,
15 square shaped, see-through dry vessel having dry contents comprising shredded colored paper
on the bottom of the vessel and a packaged set of baby's bib and tiny shoes, with additional
shredded colored paper placed atop the baby's set. The wet assembly is then placed into the
throat of the square dry vessel and fixed thereto, such as with clear tape, to retain the two
assemblies together and prevent inadvertent mixing between them. In another non-depicted
20 example, an Easter Bunny, plastic grass and Easter candy are placed into the dry chamber,
with the wet assembly then placed into the throat of the dry vessel and fixed thereto. In yet

another non-depicted example, a fishbowl-shaped dry vessel is filled with shredded colored paper, along with a variety of bath products (e.g. lotions, soaps, fragrances, etc.). Furthermore, Compact Discs and other wrapped gifts may be employed as the dry contents placed in the dry chamber. The dry chamber operates as a see-through gift container that also
5 has a living plant floral arrangement extending upward from it.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that various adaptations and modifications of the just-described preferred embodiment can be configured without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention. Therefore, it is to be understood that, within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced other than as
10 specifically described herein.